GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Higher Education - Collaboration with edX LLC for their "Education Subscription Catalogue" for eLearning by all the 12 Lakhs students pursuing higher education in the State for significantly enhancing quality of higher education and promoting educational excellence – Orders – Issued - Reg.

HIGHER EDUCATION (UE) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.2 **Dated:03.01.2024**

Read the following:-

1. Meetings by Hon'ble Chief Minister dated:27th Jul, 14th Aug, 17th Aug & 14th Nov, 2023.
2. A non-commercial MoU signed by HED with edX dt:17.08.2023
3. GO.Ms.No.206, Higher Education (UE) Department, dt:29.11.2023
4. Minutes of 1st meeting of State Level Committee held on 06.12.2023
5. Minutes of 2nd meeting of State Level Committee held on 18.12.2023

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ORDER:-

The Government envisions to make the student of AP a Global student and so there is a need to keep abreast of the latest technologies, including Artificial intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Mining, Data analytics, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Cloud computing, Quantum computing etc. Having realized the shortage of well-trained faculty and quality content in these emerging fields, to make the students future ready and globally competitive, there is a need to evolve a road map towards achieving the objective. There is an exigent need to make available the best verticals to the students and to ensure the teaching of the students of Andhra Pradesh by the best faculty of the highest-ranked Universities/ institutions in the world.

2. As such, in the meeting held on 14-08-2023, Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that the students pursuing higher education in the state may get certified by globally renowned institutions such as MIT and Harvard where the courses are taught by the world's leading experts and teachers from globally best universities through the eLearning Platforms such as edX where all instructors at edX, are renowned professionals in their areas of expertise, with extensive teaching experience. In this regard, in the meeting held with Hon'ble Chief Minister on 17-08-2023, a non-commercial MoU has been signed with edX. Prof. Anant Agarwal, Padma Shree awardee, Founder, and Chief Platform Officer of edX, MIT Professor, a recipient of Harold W. Mc Graw Prize in Higher Education and Yidan prize for educational research expressed his willingness to advise the AP Higher Education Department and in guiding the A.P. State Council of Higher Education on curriculum design, creation of new verticals, revamping of existing courses, innovation in education for reskilling & upskilling and in use of technology towards quality education.

3. During the further deliberations in the Hon'ble Chief Minister's review meeting dated:14.11.2023 on the tie-up with edX, it is decided to offer online courses to all the students of the State and to constitute a State Level Committee (SLC) to suggest a way forward. Accordingly, a State Level

Contd...P2

Committee has been constituted vide the GO.Ms.No.206, Higher Education (UE) Dept., dated:29.11.2023 (Reference 3rd read above) with the following terms of reference:

a. to examine the merits of edX online courses comparing with other online courses;

b. to work out modalities for ensuring that edX courses are available to all the students pursuing higher education for credits and certification;

c. to negotiate with edX LLC for the best possible price and payment terms;

d. to evolve a road map and methodology for implementation of the project;

e. to work out any relevant measure, including tie-up with any other agency, to ensure quality online education for students of Andhra Pradesh.

4. The State Level Committee has submitted its report recommending that edX is the only platform suitable for the needs of Higher Education Department. Further, the Committee has negotiated with edX on payment and terms and recommended entering into agreement with edX on nomination basis to benefit all the 12 Lakhs students pursuing higher education in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Committee also opined that this initiative would enable access to courses from institutions like MIT and Harvard, aligning with the Government's vision to certify students with globally recognized education with all the instructors being renowned professionals at the edX platform.

5. Therefore, the Government, after careful consideration of the matter, recognizing the imperative of advancing the quality of higher education and fostering educational excellence among students pursuing higher education, hereby issues the following orders to enter into the collaboration with edX LLC for making their "Education Subscription Catalogue" comprising 1800+ courses available for certifications/credits to all the 12 Lakhs students pursuing higher education in the State for significantly enhancing their skills, and quality of higher education and promoting educational innovation and excellence in the State:-

a) APSCHE shall act as the implementing agency for this project with the final price of the subscriptions at USD $6,000,000 (Six Million US Dollars only) for 400,000 licenses with 1 year validity with each license carrying an unlimited rotation, during the validity period, to cover all the 12 Lakhs students of higher education in the State.

b) APSCHE to enter into a contractual agreement at their level with appropriate legal entity after obtaining legal and financial clearance from experts. The contract may cover license allocation, rotation policy, specified payment terms, commencement date of license validity, dispute resolution , termination clauses etc.,

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c) APSCHE shall remit 100% of the payment in USD to edX LLC, a US-based company, within 15 days from the date of agreement execution and invoice generation as negotiated with edX without advance payment. The entire sum will be borne/released by the Government, including applicable taxes (now or later) and any forex remittance charges/fees associated with USD payments, aligning with the prevailing exchange rate on the payment date.

d) APSCHE shallwork out a detailed implementation strategy in coordination with other Higher Educational Institutions under other Government departments, in consultation with Higher Education Department.

e) APSCHE shall also establish a committee of experts to conduct regular evaluations, assessing the impact of the initiative among students for better implementation and submit reports periodically to the Government.

f) MOU dated 17.08.2023 with edX LLC envisages that, Prof. Anant Agarwal, Padma Shree awardee, the Founder and Chief Platform Officer of edX, MIT Professor, a recipient of Harold W. Mc Graw Prize in Higher Education and Yidan prize for educational research will provide his guidance to the AP Higher Education Department on curriculum design, creation of new verticals, revamping of existing courses, and innovation in education for reskilling & upskilling. Therefore the A.P. State Council of Higher Education should prepare a plan for his engagement for approval of the Government, within a week of issue of this order.

6. This order is issued with the concurrence of Finance Department vide their U.O.No.FIN01-FMU0MISC/505/2023-FMU-HTE Computer No:2239794, dated.30.10.2023 & 28.12.2023.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.SYAMALA RAO
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Agriculture and Marketing Department,
The Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Department
The Secretary, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, Mangalagiri.
The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, A.P., Mangalagiri
Copy to:
The PS to Special Chief Secretary to Chief Minister
The OSD to Hon'ble Minister for Education.
The PS to Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Dept.
The General Administration (Cabinet) Department
The Finance (FMU-HTE) Department,
SF/SCs

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER